

Nurturing families is a prevention program not an intervention program. We go into the homes and educate the families with several curriculums such as Parents as Teachers, partners for healthy babies and other prevention programs which includes shaking baby's syndrome, SID'S. We conduct Ages and Stages, to name a few of the tools we use with the families. During the course of the visits we ask what kind of resources they might need to help them stay connected to the community. Home visits are an integral part of the program by helping mothers become comfortable with being just a mother. We monitor post partum depression and work with other professionals to help the family cope with the new child and the mother's state of mind. We help them set realistic goals; continue their education whether it is a high school diploma or a college education.

In the 11 years as a nurturing family's educator, on my watch there has been only 2 pregnancy that was not planned. Two other pregnancies were planned. Dealing with the stresses of today's society, the mothers have made the decision as far as not having any more children. Many have waited for their economical situation to get better before deciding to have any more children.

Many of these families have private insurance from their fathers. The preventive care such as immunizations and health visits to the doctors has been an important step for the families to accomplish. Sending their children to school and becoming a part of their education is another step in keeping the family bonded.

When a baby is born there is not a "How to" book given to them in order to learn how to be a parent. Many young families do not have the support system to help them achieve many of those goals. The engagement and prevention of these serves will keep our young families from become a statistic.

Please keep the "Nurturing Families Program" in the budget; we will suffer the consequences in the years to come if the program is terminated. There is data that is accountability results based and shows that the program is worth saving.

To the Appropriation Committee, Letter of support from NFN mom:

hi my name is alexandria and i have been involved with nurtering families sence my daughter was born 11/7/07. and i have had a good experince with them my worker comes

every monday and she is great. she brings me pamflits and we watch video clips on all different types of things like children and their minds as in all the certin windows in there mind and how you need to get as much into them when there small before they close.

all the stages and ages babies and kids do things. i lov getiing the pamflits about children and there sages because i love to be further educatedon what i like. and that how i lern to be a good mom. i love to know how i1m doing and where my child is in her development.

nerturing families is a good organization ever sence i have been involved i have lerned much more and i have meet nice people and opened up alot.

Nurturing Families Network
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Alex is a young mom with learning disabilities and a history of family trauma who had a premature baby born with many health concerns. Both mom and baby are doing great and Alex is now thinking about applying to Gateway to further her education. Noreen has been encouraging her to call their office for students with disabilities, a goal that is now on her action plan.